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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

USSS-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 MC-02

NEA-10 AF-10 OMB-01 DRC-01 INRE-00 /145 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8331
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: GW, NATO, MILI
SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT AND FONOFF PRESS SPOKESMEN COMMENTS ON US MILITARY SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL AND FRG NEAR EAST POLICY

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSLATED TEXT OF A PRESS CONFERENCE OCTOBER 26 HELD BY FRG DEPUTY PRESS SPOKESMAN AND THE FONOFF PRESS SPOKESMAN: BEGIN TEXT:

IN ANSWERING A CORRESPONDENT'S QUESTION ABOUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO THE THIRD SHIP (AT BREMERHAVEN), THE SPOKESMAN SAID "THIS ONE, FOR SURE, HAS DEPARTED WITHOUT A LOAD. I CANNOT SAY WHETHER IT WAS OUT IN THE HARBOR APPROACHES OR NOT. MY KNOWLEDGE IS NOT THAT DETAILED. IN ANY CASE, IT SAILED WITHOUT A LOAD."

IN THE CONTEXT OF A QUESTION ABOUT STATEMENTS MADE BY CSU DEPUTY ZIMMERMANN YESTERDAY, GRUENEWALD SAID, "YOU ALL KNOW THAT IN THE NEAR EAST CONFLICT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS GUIDED BY THE STRICT PRINCIPLE OF NON-PARTISANSHIP. THIS IS WHAT THE CHANCELLOR STRESSED ONCE AGAIN IN HIS STATEMENT IN THE BUNDESTAG."
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REPLYING TO A QUESTION WHICH REFERRED TO US INFORMATION TO THE FRG, GRUENEWALD SAID, "NATO RULES CALL FOR FORMING THE NATO COUNCIL. THIS WAS DONE, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS INFORMED. NATO RULES DO NOT CONCERN BILATERAL INFORMATION, BUT YOU ALL KNOW THAT, NOTWITHSTANDING THESE LEGAL RULES, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS INFORMED AS ALL OTHERS IN THE NATO COUNCIL WERE, AND THAT THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND WAS IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE YESTERDAY AND, IN ADDITION, INFORMED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BILATERALLY."

ANSWERING A QUESTION WHETHER ARMS SHIPMENTS MIGHT BE MADE FROM US AIR BASES IN THE FRG, GRUENEWALD SAID, "THE U.S. HAS BEEN ASKED TO DISCONTINUE THESE ARMS SHIPMENTS. AS FAR AS I KNOW IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR GERMAN AUTHORITIES TO EXAMINE WHAT CARGO IS IN U.S. AIRCRAFT THAT LAND, TAKE OFF, STOP OVER OR DO WHATEVER THEY DO ON U.S. MILITARY AIRFIELDS IN THIS COUNTRY."
END TEXT.

2. THE FONOFF SPOKESMAN ALSO MADE THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL STATEMENT ON U.S. ARMS SHIPMENTS: "IF YOU CONCLUDE FROM THE FACT THAT THE SHIPS IN BREMERHAVEN WERE ISRAELI SHIPS, THAT THE MEASURE TAKEN BY OUR SIDE REFERS ONLY TO ISRAELI SHIPS, YOU ARE, OF COURSE, WRONG. IF THIS HAD BEEN AN ARAB SHIP OR THE SHIP OF ANOTHER COUNTRY AT WAR, THE SAME MEASURES WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE BEEN TAKEN. IT IS NOT WITHOUT REASON THAT WE HAVE MADE AN ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN OUR REASONS FOR OUR MEASURES, AND THESE REASONS ARE EXACTLY WHAT MR. GRUENEWALD HAS JUST BEEN TRYING TO SAY THAT IF WE WISH TO REMAIN CONSISTENT WITH OUR DECLARED POLICY, WHICH THE CHANCELLOR ADVOCATED IN ISRAEL AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN SOME OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES, WE CANNOT ABOLISH OR CHANGE FROM ONE DAY TO THE NEXT THE PRINCIPLES OF OUR NEAR EAST POLICY. IN ORDER TO REMAIN CREDIBLE WE MUST ALSO ABIDE BY THE PRINCIPLES IN CASES WHERE IT IS OCCASIONALLY DIFFICULT TO DO SO."

3. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION WHETHER THE US WOULD NOW
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REPLENISH ITS ARMS STOCKS, GRUENEWALD SAID: "I THINK THERE IS NO REASON FOR THAT AT THE PRESENT TIME."
HILLENBRAND

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